

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1-36 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 18, and 24 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicant submits that the amendments do not add new matter.

Objection to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The characters used to identify the elements, display controller, processor, I/O controller and memory, on page 10, do not match with the characters used in Fig. 2.

In response to the Examiner's objection, applicant has amended the reference numbers in Figure 2 to match the specification. A replacement sheet of drawings is attached.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 12-16, 18, 24-26 and 32-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,389,127 of Vardi, et al. ("Vardi").

Vardi discloses a telephone status notification system that is able to get an on-line report on the status of one or more telephone numbers automatically or receive the status set by a user of the telephone regarding his availability for a telephone call, without the need to try to call the desired number. If a user wishes to determine the status of a telephone line associated with the other user, the user sends a request for telephone line status information to a request server, the request comprises the telephone number or other information, such as permanent or dynamic IP address, identifying the other user. Vardi discloses that

Each request typically comprises information identifying one or more telephones by their number, owner's name, or by any other identification method. Request server 16 is typically connectable to the Internet and is capable of receiving the request of user 10. The request also preferably comprises a unique identification code and/or network address identifying user 10, and a unique identification code and/or network address to which the notification of the status of telephone line 14 is to be sent. The request may also comprise one or more telephone numbers associated with user 10. The request may also comprise a unique identification code and/or network address identifying user 12. Any of the network addresses described hereinabove may be user 10's or user 12's permanent IP address, should user 10 or user 12 possess one.

(Vardi, col.5, lines 39-53)

Further, Vardi discloses that the other user may enter the physical status of his telephone line into the telephone status acquirer that may be embodied within his client software to indicate that telephone line is busy, available, etc.

More specifically, Vardi discloses that

It is appreciated that telephone status acquirer 20 may be embodied within client software running on a computer terminal 22 used by user 12 that is connectable to the Internet. In this case, the client software typically determines the status of telephone line 14 by being in communication with a device that determines the on-hook/off-hook status of telephone line 14. The device may be attached to the telephone line (a line detector), connected directly to a telephone 24, be part of telephone 24 itself, or contained within computer terminal 22 to which telephone 24 or telephone line 14 may be connected via any one of a number of well-known interface devices. Alternatively, the client software can be integrated with and reside in telephone 24. Alternatively, telephone line 14 may be a PABX extension. In this case, telephone status acquirer 20 acquires the status from a known and integral part of a PABX system configured to determine the status of telephone line 14, and then delivers the status, typically via the Internet or other non-PABX connection, to requesting server 16, computer terminal 18, or whatever destination or destinations specified in user 10's request. User 12 may additionally or alternatively enter the physical status of telephone line 14 into the client software to indicate that telephone line 14 is busy, available, etc., and/or "logical" telephone statuses such as "available/not available for calls," or more detailed status information such as "available for calls, but only to the following list of users . . . " and the like.

(Vardi, col. 6, lines 6-32) (emphasis added)

Unlike the presently claimed subject matter, Vardi merely discloses various possible statuses of the telephone line associated with one or more users and sending the status information about the telephone line, such as busy, available, etc., to the requesting user. Vardi does not disclose establishing the connection to the down link and at the same time returning a

plurality of imposter responses to the requester to make a link between the requester and the remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, wherein returning the plurality of imposter responses allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses, until the link is established, as recited in amended claim 1:

A method comprising:

receiving from a requester a request to access an information;
if a link to a first remote computer containing the information is down,
establishing the link while concurrently returning a plurality of imposter responses that allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses to make a communication to the first remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, until the link is established.

(Amended claim 1) (emphasis added)

Because Vardi does not disclose, teach, or suggest all limitations of amended claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Vardi under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e).

With respect to claim 18, as set forth hereinabove, Vardi does not disclose preventing from a timeout and from a subsequent error message to reach a user if the Internet connection is down, by establishing a dial-up connection to the Internet and at the same time returning a plurality of imposter domain names that allows a DNS request to be initiated by the application program for each of the plurality of the imposter domain names, until the dial-up Internet connection is established, as recited in amended claim 18:

A method comprising:

receiving a domain name system (DNS) request initiated by an application program;
if no Internet connection has been established, precluding a timeout and subsequent error message to reach a user by establishing a dial-up connection to the Internet while concurrently returning a plurality of imposter domain names that allows a DNS request to be initiated by the application program for each of the plurality of the imposter domain names, until the dial-up Internet connection is established.

(Amended claim 18) (emphasis added)

Because Vardi does not disclose, teach, or suggest all limitations of amended claim 18, applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Vardi under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e).

With respect to amended claim 24 that includes the limitation discussed above that if a link to a first remote computer containing the information is down, establishing the link while concurrently returning a plurality of imposter responses to the requester that allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the unique imposter responses to make the communication to the first remote computer appear as uninterrupted and prevent the timeout to reach the requester, until the link is established, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 24 is likewise not anticipated by Vardi under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e).

Given that dependent claims 2-3, 12-16, 25- 26, and 32-35 depend directly or indirectly on amended claims 1, 18, and 24 respectively, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3, 12-16, 25- 26, and 32-35 are likewise not anticipated by Vardi under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4-11, 17, 27-31 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,389,127 of Vardi, et al. ("Vardi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,724 of Bhatia ("Bhatia"). Claims 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,389,127 of Vardi, et al. ("Vardi") and U.S. Patent No. 6,023,724 of Bhatia ("Bhatia") and further in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (TCB-ACC-NO:NNRD427119) ("IBM").

As set forth hereinabove, Vardi does not disclose establishing the connection to the down link and at the same time returning a plurality of imposter responses to the requester to make a link between the requester and the remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, wherein returning the plurality of imposter responses allows the

requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses, until the link is established, as recited in amended claim 1.

Bhatia discloses an apparatus and method for an ISDN LAN modem that displays fault information to local hosts through interception of host DNS request messages. According to Bhatia, when a fault condition related to a remote network connection arises, the web server in the LAN modem recognizes this condition by reading a current value of the global variable that reflects this particular fault, constructs, and downloads a predefined web page to the workstation.

More specifically, Bhatia discloses that

Specifically should such a fault condition arise that affects a remote network connection, via the ISDN B-channel(s), then in use by a workstation on the LAN, web server 412 in the LAN modem, recognizing this condition by reading a then current value of a global variable which reflects this particular fault, constructs and downloads a predefined web page to the workstation. This page, when displayed by a browser thereat, informs the user of the specific nature of that condition such that the user can then take appropriate action, such as, e.g., establishing a remote session to the network destination at a later time or simply re-transmitting a message.

(Col. 26, lines 11-22)

In fact, the part of the reference cited by the Examiner discloses how the dynamic web page is constructed by using two examples, one being the creation of a specific error message and the other being the creation of a dynamically changing progress bar display object.

Specifically, Bhatia discloses that

Based on the state and status of the system, and/or values of shared (global) variable(s) at the time a dynamic page is created from this template, specific page components, such as particular refresh time commands, text and pictures will be selectively substituted for the corresponding placeholder(s) to create a dynamic web page. The template, as rendered by a web browser on a display screen, would appear as shown in FIG. 23. Each of the placeholders merely appears as a textual object set off by underscores in a predefined location, as specified by HTML coding within code 2200 shown in FIG. 22.

(col. 58, lines 48-59) (emphasis added)

Further, Bhatia discloses that

For example, assume that a user entered an incorrect telephone number into the Wizard causing a logon placed through the LAN modem to that ISP to fail; hence representing a specific error condition. This error condition, reflected in values of various global

variables, results in the selection, as defined in the program code for the ISP Wizard, of particular page objects, as delineated in block 2420, for each of the placeholders in template 2200.

(col. 59, lines 5-13) (emphasis added)

More specifically, Bhatia discloses that

For a different error condition or a successful logon attempt, the values of the global variables would change accordingly from those associated with the selected page components shown in block 2420 in FIG. 24. Hence, different predefined page components would be dynamically substituted into template 2200 to produce a web page that, when rendered on the display screen at the workstation, would indicate the particular result which then occurred, i.e. this different error condition or a successful logon.

(col. 59, lines 34-43) (emphasis added)

Unlike the presently claimed subject matter, Bhatia, discloses the LAN modem, which constructs and downloads a predefined web page that merely states the particular network condition, such as a fault in the network connection or successful logon, on the display screen of the user's workstation by inserting predefined web page components into the placeholders of the webpage template. Thus, Bhatia also does not disclose establishing the connection to the down link and at the same time returning a plurality of imposter responses to the requester to make a link between the requester and the remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, wherein returning the plurality of imposter responses allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses, until the link is established, as recited in amended claim 1.

In contrast to the presently claimed subject matter, IBM discloses separation of file/directory pathname canonicalization. More specifically, IBM discloses that

During recent development of a Virtual File System (VFS) and related Network File System (NFS) work, it was found that some NFS clients were sending remote procedure call (RPC) requests to validate each intermediate part of a path (via NFS_LOOKUP) instead of sending the full path as far as it was thought to be valid. This means in many cases 12 to 15 RPCs instead of a single RPC.

In the design of a file system that is structured on a client/server split, where a client portion keeps track of the current working directory and therefore has to perform the canonicalization, the path validation can often only be efficiently be done by the server.

Indeed, our research has shown us that in most cases even where there is no client/server split, it is advantageous to separate canonicalization from validation and perform these two operations in close sequence, but not interleaving validation of intermediate path information with the forming of a canonical name. This results in a simpler implementation and superior performance, especially in a network environment.

(IBM, paragraphs 4-6)

Thus, IBM also does not disclose the limitation of amended claim 1 of establishing the connection to the down link and at the same time returning a plurality of imposter responses to the requester to make a link between the requester and the remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, wherein returning the plurality of imposter responses allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses, until the link is established.

Hence, none of Vardi, Bhatia, or IBM disclose, teach, or suggest establishing the connection to the down link and at the same time returning a plurality of imposter responses to the requester to make a link between the requester and the remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, wherein returning the plurality of imposter responses allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses, until the link is established, as recited in amended claim 1.

Consequently, even if Vardi, Bhatia, and IBM were combined, such a combination would lack the limitation of claim 1 of establishing the connection to the down link and at the same time returning a plurality of imposter responses to the requester to make a link between the requester and the remote computer appear as uninterrupted and to prevent a timeout to reach the requester, wherein returning the plurality of imposter responses allows the requester to send a request for each of the plurality of the imposter responses, until the link is established.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Vardi and Bhatia, and further in view of IBM.

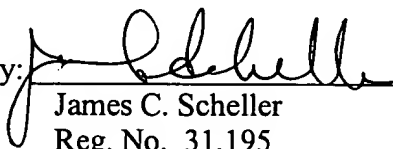
Independent claims 18 and 24 contain substantially similar limitations to amended claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 24, for at least the same reasons as advanced above, are not obvious under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) over Vardi and Bhatia, and further in view of IBM.

Given that claims 2-17, 19-23, and 25-36 depend, either directly or indirectly, on respective claims 1, 18, and 24 and add additional limitations, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-17, 19-23, and 25-36 are likewise not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Vardi and Bhatia, and further in view of IBM.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 7/1/2004 By: 
James C. Scheller
Reg. No. 31,195

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8300